

## Installation of Escalator Skirt Deflector Devices

ASME A17.1 (2000), 6.1.3.3.8 permits the installation of skirt deflectors (brushes) on escalators to deflect the feet of riders away from the area where the moving step travels along the stationary skirt. The brushes are mounted to the skirt and protrude over the gap between the step and skirt. Requirement 6.1.3.3.8(2) states the following:

*"On the incline, the area of any protrusion shall lie entirely offset outward from a line beginning on the vertical portion of the skirt panel measured 25 mm (1 in.) vertically above the step nose line."*

The corresponding diagram Fig 6.1.3.3.8 shows this dimension as 1 inch *minimum*.

The ASME A17.1 Standards Committee has issued the following interpretation to address mounting of these brushes:

Inquiry 03-42

Subject: Requirement 6.1.3.3.8 - Skirt Deflector Devices

Step/Skirt Performance Index Requirements

Edition: A17.1-2000 including through A17.1b-2003

Background:

There exists some confusion as to whether the rule wording permits deflectors to be located at any position other than the specific values written in the rule, and being in conflict with Figure 6.1.3.3.8.

Question:

- (1) Does 6.1.3.3.8(a)(2) permit the lower edge of the rigid element lower surface (nearest the step nose line) to be located further outward than 25 mm (1 inch) vertically above the step nose line?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is yes, is there a maximum "outward" distance?
- (3) Does 6.1.3.3.8(a)(3) permit the lower edge of the rigid element lower surface (nearest the step nose line) to be located higher than 50 mm (2 inch) above the step nose line?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is yes, is there a maximum "above" distance?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. But there is a natural limit that is determined by the balustrade geometry.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No. But there is a natural limit that is determined by the balustrade geometry.

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The position of this department is to discourage riders from standing close enough to the skirt to contact the skirt with footwear, answer (4) shall be modified as follows. The lower edge of the rigid element lower surface (nearest the step nose line) shall be located not less than 1" or more than 3" above the step nose line.

This will remain the department's position until the department accepts a change or later interpretation to this code requirement.

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